

SENATE RESOLUTION 128
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to commend Mr. Commodore C. Primous, Sr. for his honorable and astute service to the young people of Tennessee as an educator and administrator.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to the steadfast service of educating young people; and

WHEREAS, Commodore C. Primous is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Primous is a highly respected member of the educational community, earning the respect of his peers through his innovative methods of teaching and his remarkable love for children and their future; and

WHEREAS, a native of Fayette, Mississippi, and a proficient scholar, Mr. Primous graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1959; from there, he pursued a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at Langston University, graduating in 1963; and

WHEREAS, Commodore Primous' desire to learn led him to attend the Mathematics Institute at Emory University in 1968, and he obtained a Masters of Education degree in School Administration and Supervision from Memphis State University in 1970; he has also taken

numerous postgraduate courses at Memphis State University and the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Commodore C. Primous began his professional career at Georgia Avenue Elementary School in 1963 and remained there until 1970; while at Georgia Avenue, he served in numerous capacities including those of an educator and an administrator; in 1971, Mr. Primous took the position of Principal at Oakville Elementary and served there for one year; and

WHEREAS, Commodore C. Primous accepted a position as Principal of Graves Elementary School, where he diligently served for 29 years, from 1972 to 2001; Mr. Primous currently serves as Principal of Robert R. Church Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Commodore Primous' versatility as an educator and his ability to relate to any age group of students is evidenced by his tenure as an Adult Studies educator from 1968 to 1970; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Primous' illustrious career has been marked by imaginative and innovative ways to provoke children's interest in learning; he has pioneered several inventive ideas in the Memphis Public School System that have proved to be very effective in the education of young people; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Primous was the first principal to implement school uniforms in the Memphis City Schools, he pioneered the school reformed model, and developed an outstanding parent involvement program, allowing parents to become more active in their child's education; and

WHEREAS, Commodore Primous has recently been able to implement some of his long standing ideas on education at Robert R. Church Elementary; these ideas include peer mediation and conflict resolution, elementary science labs, choir and music rooms, a stringed orchestra room, a book club, a student council, computers in the classroom and several computer labs, a media center; and parental resource areas that allow parents and grandparents to tutor students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Primous is also going to begin chess, math and dance clubs, and create a Family Math and Science Workshop to aid parents in helping children with their homework; and

WHEREAS, these ideas and changes have allowed students to discover hidden abilities and talents and find new and exciting interests; and

WHEREAS, in addition to utilizing these programs to build self-esteem, Mr. Primous has developed a school pledge which encourages the children to believe in themselves; to be proud of who they are; and to respect the concerns of others; and

WHEREAS, Commodore C. Primous has received several honors for his unswerving service to children including being recognized by the superintendent for his exceptional parental involvement program, SPIP; selection by the superintendent to attend the Harvard University Principal's Center in 2000; and attaining two Goals 2000 Grants exceeding \$100,000 to implement Lightspan Achieve Now Program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Primous also belongs to several professional and civic associations including the Memphis Public School Principal's Association, National Association of Elementary School Principals, Memphis Area Alliance of Black School Educators, National Alliance of Black School Educators, International Reading Association, National Education Association, Tennessee Educational Association, and the Memphis Educational Association; and

WHEREAS, Commodore Primous is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Langston University Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Primous is a dedicated member of the Beulah Baptist Church, where he serves as a Deacon; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as an educator and administrator, Commodore C. Primous has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Primous' remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Primous is a an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Commodore C. Primous is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his loving and supportive family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Primous is wholly committed to the education of our children and the future of our State. Commodore C. Primous is the epitome of public service and exemplifies the true characteristics of a Tennessean and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby commend Mr. Commodore C. Primous, Sr. for his honorable and astute service to the young people of Tennessee as an educator and administrator and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.